



Element Two: Earth

Read Luke 2:52. On Sunday, I highlighted the fact that this verse should be somewhat confusing for people who believe that Jesus is both human and divine. After all, humans grow, but God doesn't. Let's start with a conversation about the divine nature of Jesus.

For each passage, share with the group what you think it is teaching:

- ▶ Exodus 3:14
- ▶ Deuteronomy 6:4
- ▶ Isaiah 45:18
- ▶ John 1:1-4, 14
- ▶ John 8:58-59
- ▶ John 10:30-31

In light of the Old Testament passages, Jesus was clearly speaking blasphemy, and that was a major reason people wanted him dead, but his resurrection vindicated his claims and created a massive problem for people who thought they understood God. It's because of his teaching and his resurrection that his followers began to teach that God was Three in One: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit each God and together God.

Now, considering that Jesus was fully God, what does it mean to you to know that he grew in wisdom? That he grew in favor with God?

Take it Home

Because Jesus grew, we know we should grow. Our metaphor for growth is **Earth** and it comes mainly out of Genesis 2:7. Read that verse and the other verses in our "Earth" Statement and discuss what that statement means for everyday life:

I AM GOD'S EARTH: God is creating me. I started as dust, but I'm becoming like Jesus. I rejoice in trials and hardships because Christ suffered for me, and I am a living sacrifice transformed by the truths of God.

Specifically, I will pursue opportunities for spiritual growth. I will root out sin in my life through regular self-examination and confession of sin both to God and to accountability partners, and in all areas of uncertainty, I will submit first to the clear teaching of the Bible, then to the leaders God has placed over me, and finally, after prayer, to my own conscience.

(Rom 8:29, 12:1-2 • Gen 1:27, 2:7 • 2 Cor 4:7-10)



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